

Elena at Full Employment Council 21st Century Healthcare Works Program

Elena Lindstedt is a 19-year-old female and a first-generation college student who came to the Full Employment Council in Independence, Missouri, seeking assistance with classroom training and full-time employment. The Full Employment Council offers a Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program, funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance.

Elena had previously worked in a nursing assistant position but needed the Enhanced certification to advance in the industry. She had a strong desire to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) with additional certifications to further her career.

Elena worked with her counselor at the Full Employment Council to determine which classroom training program would be the best fit for her. Together, they found there was a CNA Enhanced (CNA+) class offered by MEDS (Medical Education Development & Support, Inc.) in Independence, Missouri. Elena successfully completed this program through MEDS in January 2013, receiving state certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant with additional certifications such as Level I Medication Aide and Insulin Medication. She also received CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED (automated external defibrillators) certification and training in specialized behavioral needs and memory and dementia care.

With the assistance of her counselor, Elena began working to find employment in the CNA field. She attended the John Knox Village retirement community's hiring event, and the company had a strong desire to hire her. Elena began an eight-week on-the-job training working as a CNA+ in February 2013, making \$10.75 per hour. Currently she makes more money than she previously had before when she worked in the health care as a Nurse's Aide.

To date, Elena has received assistance with tuition, transportation, career guidance, and job search activities to help her gain a credential and find employment in the field she desired. The HPOG program helped her advance in her career and move toward a sustainable wage.